

We claim:

1. A customizable application system comprising:

an internet application system configured to support an internet application, the internet application associated with metadata configured for generating an application user interface including a plurality of user interface elements having a tab-order property, the internet application system including,

a) an application server configured to generate the application user interface, and

b) a web application server configured to deliver the application user interface to a client;

a personalization system including a personalization engine and a user profile interface, the personalization interface configured to modify personalization data characterizing the tab-order property such that the tab-order of the plurality of user interface elements is modified; and

a data repository including a data record for storing the personalization data, the data record being accessible using the metadata.

2. A method of developing a customizable user interface element, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a property;

developing a user interface element including the property;

determining a data record for holding a value used to characterize the property, the data record being stored in a data repository and being user modifiable, the data repository being physically remote from a client used to display an application user interface;

generating metadata defining the property, the metadata including a reference to the data record; and

storing the metadata in association with the user interface element, the user interface element being configured for inclusion in the application user interface.

3. A method of customizing an application user interface, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing a page definition, the page definition including metadata associated with a customized property of a user interface element;

accessing the metadata to obtain a reference to a data record;

using the reference to access the data record, the data record being stored in a data repository and being user modifiable, the data repository being physically remote from a client used to display an application user interface;

accessing the data record to determine a value defining the customized property;

generating markup-language responsive to the determined value; and

including the generated markup-language in the application user interface.